

# Memorandum

**Date:** January 5, 2005  
**Telephone:** (916) 651-8835

**To:** John L. Geesman, Presiding Member  
William J. Keese, Associate Member

**From:** California Energy Commission – Jack W. Caswell, Project Manager  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**Subject:** BLYTHE ENERGY TRANSMISSION LINE STATUS REPORT #2

Energy Commission staff (staff) in coordination with Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are continuing to gather information and analyze the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification (BEPTL). Staff's date to publish the preliminary Staff Assessment/Environmental Assessment (SA/EA) scheduled for January 7, 2005 will not be met. Additional time is needed to enable staff, Western, and BLM to coordinate review of technical sections. Our goal is to publish the SA/EA by January 21, 2005. This delay should not affect the proposed final SA/EA publication date of June 6, 2005 identified in the first status report dated December 13, 2005.

Except for a change in the release date of the preliminary SA/EA and the corresponding workshop dates, now being scheduled for February 17 and 18, 2005, the schedule provided in our earlier status report remains unchanged (see attached). These workshop dates have been scheduled at the request of Western and BLM to accommodate review of the complete document prior to the workshops.

For staff to complete the final SA/EA, meet CEQA/NEPA requirements and provide meaningful recommendations, the following revised critical information still needs to be provided by the project owner. Once these items are supplied, it is our intent to complete the final SA/EA within 20 days, assuming receipt of each item per the dates listed in the first status report.

- Cultural Resource studies and mitigation measures where necessary
- FAA Determination on No Hazard to Air Navigation
- Biological Assessment with mitigation measures that has been accepted as complete by Western and USF&WS
- Amended System Impact Studies
- Short Circuit and Stability Analysis
- Facilities Studies that identify all mitigation measures
- CA ISO and Western preliminary interconnection approvals

cc: POS

**Blythe Energy Transmission Line Major Amendment  
Staff Proposed Schedule**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Petition filed by project owner	Oct 12, 04
Staff files Data Requests	Nov 01, 04
Staff files Issue Identification Report	Nov 03, 04
Committee holds Information-Scoping Hearing and Site Visit	Nov 10, 04
Staff Data Request and Issue Workshop	Nov 15, 04
Continued Data Workshop	Nov 23, 04
Project owner provides Data Responses	Nov 30, 04
*Draft Drainage, Erosion, Sediment Plan to Staff	Dec 13, 04
Preliminary Local, State, and Federal agency comments	Dec 14, 04
Second Set of Data Requests issued by Staff	Dec 17, 04
*BA Deemed Complete by USF&WS	Jan 13, 05
Second Set of Data Responses issued by Project Owner	Jan 18, 05
Draft SA/EA filed	Jan 21, 05
*FAA Form 7469-1 Determination	Jan 31, 05
*Cultural Resource Surveys	Feb 15, 05
Draft SA/EA Workshop	Feb 17, 05
Local, State, and Federal agency comments on SA/EA	Feb 28, 05
*Amended System Impact Study	Feb 28, 05
*Short Circuit and Stability Studies	Mar 15, 05
*Facility Studies	Apr 15, 05
*CAISO and Western Interconnection Approval	May 16, 05
SA/EA Agency Conference	May 23, 05
Final SA/EA filed	Jun 06, 05
Evidentiary Hearings	TBD**
Committee files Proposed Decision	TBD
Committee Conference on the Proposed Decision	TBD
Close of public comments on the Proposed Decision	TBD
Commission Decision	TBD

\*This information is required before staff publishes the final SA/EA. The dates have been established from Data Responses provided on 11/30/04, workshops, staff estimates and on going discussions.

\*\*To Be Determined